

MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting
Lansing, Michigan
May 26, 2004

Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, the Commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC), created by said act, met in the Aeronautics Auditorium, Bureau of Multi-Modal Transportation Services, 2700 E. Airport Service Drive, Lansing, Michigan, on Wednesday, May 26, 2004, commencing at the hour of approximately 10:00 a.m.

Members Present

Sidney Adams, Jr., Chairman
Dean Greenblatt, Vice Chair
Lowell E. Kraft, Commissioner
Eric V. Smith, Commissioner
Terry Everman, Commissioner
Gloria J. Jeff, Commissioner
Ken Heaton, Commissioner
Mindy Koch, Commissioner
Rob Abent, MAC Director
Patrick Isom, Legal Counsel
Barbara Burris, Analyst

Members Absent

John Ort, Commissioner

Staff Present

Leon Hank, Executive Division
Ron Seely, Airports Division
Pauline Misjak, Aviation Services Division
Gerry Edwards, Aviation Services Division
David Baker, Airports Division
Rick Hammond, Airports Division
Linn Smith, Airports Division
Mark Grennell, Airports Division
Ron DeCook, Governmental Affairs

Also Present

Peter Burgher, Former MAC Commissioner
Sean Brosnan, Willow Run Airport
Bill Blake, AOPA
Dan Otto, Capital City Airport
Mike Trout, Flint-Bishop Airport
Elmer Ledbetter, Lake Isabella Airport
Todd Cotter, Grand Ledge Airport
Mark Johnson, Livingston County Airport
Larry Bowron, W.K. Kellogg Airport

A list of all others present is attached to the official minutes.

I. OPENING REMARKS

The May 26, 2004, meeting of the Aeronautics Commission was called to order by Chairman Sidney Adams at 10:07 a.m.

With the Chair's permission, Director Abent announced that Jim Shell, Assistant Attorney General, would be sitting in for Legal Counsel Pat Isom; that Commissioner John Ort would be absent due to obligations incumbent upon his position as Director of the Office of Emergency Management.

Commissioner Jeff noted that these activities were related to the heavy rainfall and resultant flooding.

II. COMMISSION BUSINESS:

Director Abent announced the first item of business, the minutes of March 25, 2004.

A. Minutes of March 25, 2004

Chairman Adams entertained a motion to approve the minutes of March 25, 2004, consisting of both the minutes of the Aeronautics Commission meeting and the joint meeting of the Transportation Commission and Aeronautics Commission.

Whereupon, a motion was made by Commissioner Smith, with support from Commissioner Kraft, to approve the minutes of the two separate meetings held March 25, 2004. MOTION CARRIED.

Director Abent announced that two individuals from the Multi-Modal Transportation Services Bureau were selected as runners-up for the 2004 Director's Award. He asked David Baker and Mark Grennell to stand and be recognized.

Messrs. Baker and Grennell received honorary plaques. Director Abent read from the plaque:

Out of the mainstream emerge a few leaders, of which you are one. Thank you for your personal commitment to work for the shared vision of Team MDOT.

He thanked both for their contributions to Team MDOT.

Turning to the next item of business, Director Abent asked that the Chairman consider the 35 projects meeting funding criteria.

The Chairman called on David Baker, Funding Manager, to present the 35 projects requiring Commission approval.

B. Airport Development Program

In preliminary remarks, Mr. Baker reminded Commissioners of the background information contained in their notebooks on each project. He proceeded with a briefing on the 35 projects pending approval.

Federal/State/Local and State/Local Projects

Location	Total Allocation	Project Description
Lenawee County Adrian	\$ 25,000	Supplemental transfer for additional mitigation work for runway extension
Alpena County Regional Alpena	\$ 1,728,000	Construction of SRE building addition, rehab lighting for terminal apron and entrance road, SRE plow truck and combo loader/blower, storm drain - remove retention pond
Huron County Memorial Bad Axe	\$ 378,000	Fencing
W.K. Kellogg Battle Creek	\$ 150,000	Environmental assessment for parallel runway
W.K. Kellogg Battle Creek	\$ 993,000	Construction of 13/31 resurfacing and taxiway widening
W.K. Kellogg Battle Creek	\$ 40,000	Preliminary engineering for new runway 5R/23L
Antrim County Bellaire	\$ 157,895	Animal control fencing, Phase I
Wexford County Cadillac	\$ 187,895	SRE and clearing
Tuscola Area Caro	\$ 58,231	Fencing
Charlevoix Municipal Charlevoix	\$ 25,000	Wetland delineation

Branch County Memorial Coldwater	\$ 292,000	Construction of 24 threshold relocation
Gladwin Zettel Memorial Gladwin	\$ 153,675	Fencing
Abrams Municipal Grand Ledge	\$ 390,000	Construction of hangar site preparation and taxiway
Houghton County Hancock	\$ 423,688	Wetland delineation and mitigation, environmental assessment for runway 7/25 RSA improvements
Harbor Springs Municipal Harbor Springs	\$ 25,000	Airport instrument approach procedures analysis and aircraft noise abatement program review
Tulip City Holland	\$ 860,000	Construction of rehabilitation of taxiway and apron, construction of animal control/security
Livingston County Howell	\$ 22,000	Supplemental transfer for soil boring for wetland mitigation design
Livingston County Howell	\$ 315,000	Land acquisition
Ford Iron Mountain	\$ 157,895	Rehab of west GA apron and tie- down area; realign fence hangar area; REIL replacements for runways 19 and 31
Gogebic Iron County Ironwood	\$ 210,526	Supplemental transfer for security/animal control fencing and categorical exclusion and wetland delineation for fencing project
Lakeview Griffith Field Lakeview	\$ 166,667	SRE, design of parallel taxiway, pavement sealing
Mason County Ludington	\$ 157,895	SRE (plow truck) and runway remarking
Jack Barstow Midland	\$ 73,000	Electrical vault
Oscoda County Mio	\$ 46,375	ALP update
Oscoda-Wurtsmith Oscoda	\$ 132,895	Crack sealing
Oscoda-Wurtsmith Oscoda	\$ 25,000	Environmental assessment for ILS

Oakland County International Pontiac	\$ 526,316	18/36 runway relocation, Phase I
Oakland County International Pontiac	\$ 20,000	Supplemental for environmental assessment
Saginaw County H.W. Browne Saginaw	\$ 43,700	ALP update
Prickett Grooms Field Sidnaw	\$ 12,000	Appraisal, excess property, and administrative costs for Sidnaw property and Ralph Airport property
Statewide	\$ 106,000	PCI contract
Statewide	\$ 355,000	Paint marking and crack sealing
Oakland/Troy Troy	\$ 130,000	Taxiway relocation at runway 9 end
West Branch Community West Branch	\$ 305,595	Pave taxi streets and hangar access drive

With respect to the Charlevoix Municipal Airport, Mr. Baker described a new approach to wetland mitigation, whereby a determination of pre-existing wetlands is made in advance, thus enabling engineering to be adapted to non-wetland areas. Mr. Baker noted that this process allows for fewer impacts from wetlands and makes programming of funds easier.

On questioning from Commissioner Kraft, Mr. Baker explained that in the case of non-primary entitlement funds, airports have three years in which to use funding, thus the 2002 funding source listed for several projects. In the case of state apportionment funds, which are somewhat more discretionary, when a project is completed below the allocation amount, the difference can be recovered and used on other projects.

With respect to the project at Midland, Commissioner Everman inquired whether the state's investment of some \$65,000 for the relocation of an electrical vault would enable the airport to free up resources that could be used to leverage additional federal dollars. Mr. Baker responded that any time the state contributes funding it releases local dollars that can be leveraged for federal money.

With regard to the two Sidnaw airports (Prickett Grooms and Ralph Airport), Mr. Baker reported that the Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources, is engaged in efforts to divest these airports. Both are unusable as airports and have been closed for some time. Ralph Airport is surrounded by DNR property. The airports will be sold at auction or gifted, depending on individual legal requirements.

Director Abent asked that the Chair entertain a motion to approve the transfers presented by Mr. Baker.

Contingent on any further comments or questions, Chairman Adams entertained a motion to approve the 35 transfers presented.

Whereupon, it was moved by Commissioner Heaton, with support from Commissioner Kraft, to approve the projects identified by Mr. Baker. MOTION CARRIED.

Director Abent noted the inclusion of one supplemental transfer; he asked that the Chair allow Mr. Baker to present it.

Whereupon, Chairman Adams directed Mr. Baker to continue with the supplemental transfers contained in the Reports Section of the Commissioners' notebooks.

Mr. Baker identified one supplemental request for funding, previously approved by Director Abent, as follows:

Saginaw County H.W. Browne Airport: A nine (9) percent increase resulting from construction costs being higher than anticipated, thereby increasing the project cost to \$439,500.

For the record, no official action is required on the supplemental transfers.

The Chairman deferred to Director Abent for a report on topics of interest.

III. DISCUSSION

A. MAC Director's Report

In a briefing to the Commission, Director Abent reported on the 2005 Transportation Budget and additional items of interest:

House Bill 5528 has been approved by the House and has been forwarded to the Senate. The Subcommittee on Transportation is nearing completion of work on this bill. The bill will proceed to the Senate Appropriations Committee and on to the Senate floor. Differences between the House and Senate versions will be worked out in conference committee.

Senate Bill 267 provides adequate appropriations and the necessary language to implement the Aeronautics program for fiscal year 2005.

The Director reported that the Teacher's Workshop, held May 22, had been a rousing success. He noted that Tom Krashen would provide a more complete report on this event later in the meeting.

He noted that Barbara Burris would be assisting in the Director's Office on a temporary basis starting June 1.

The Federal Aviation Administration has released the 2004 federal block grants totaling \$20,800,000. Staff will proceed with activities associated with the disposition of funds.

He noted that Governmental Affairs Director Ron DeCook would be providing an update on pending legislation.

He respectfully asked the Chair to entertain public comment .

The Chair opened the floor to comments from the audience.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Lawson, Manager of the Grosse Ile Municipal Airport, praised the staff of the bureau for their professional and courteous assistance with respect to the block grant process and other issues.

He highlighted the 2004 Grosse Ile Air Extravaganza scheduled for June 19 and 20, 2004, at the Grosse Ile Airport. The event, sponsored by the Yankee Air Museum, is expected to raise funds and awareness of the museum's activities in the Detroit area. Flyovers are planned for Saturday and Sunday from a B-2 Stealth bomber and an F-117 Stealth fighter, respectively, as part of the aerial demonstrations planned for this event to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Grosse Ile Naval Air Station. Vintage aircraft, including the museum's B-25, will be on display. Former veterans of the Naval Air Station have been invited to attend. He distributed passes and posters to the Commissioners and extended a personal invitation to them to participate in this exciting event.

At this juncture, Director Abent announced that Discussion Item B, a report on *General Aviation Security*, would be postponed until the next meeting due to the absence of Commissioner Ort, one of the principals to the meetings on this subject.

He asked for the Chairman's approval to proceed with a report from Tom Krashen on the Teacher's Workshop held May 22.

The Chairman called on Tom Krashen.

V. REPORTS

A. Teacher's Workshop

On May 22, 2004, the bureau held the 11th Annual Aerospace Teacher's Workshop. Mr. Krashen praised the many volunteers who assisted in the set-up and staffing of activities throughout the day. Judge Michael Silver, he noted, had been tireless in his efforts to acquire resource materials and giveaways for the workshop. Mr. Krashen thanked Director Jeff for providing opening remarks and welcoming attendees. He thanked Chairman Adams for his attendance on behalf of the Commission. Approximately 186 teachers and some 60 to 65 staff volunteers and exhibitors participated in this event. Dr. Katherine Clark, formerly chief scientist at NASA, provided a very inspirational, very moving keynote address. Karl Klimek, another keynote speaker, did a presentation on educational barnstorming. The highlight of the workshop, he noted, was the resource center, where educational resource materials are up for grabs. During the afternoon, teachers participated in their choice of eight different breakout sessions. Mr. Krashen summarized the sessions and identified the speakers. Airplane rides which began in the morning had to be suspended due to inclement weather. Mr. Krashen thanked the Aviation Department of Lansing Community College for contributing to this event. He invited questions from the Commissioners.

Chairman Adams remarked on missed opportunities in the schools for promoting aviation as a valid career path.

Mr. Krashen commented that the bureau is actively engaged in promoting aviation careers through programs such as Outreach. He noted that MDOT had hosted a career day back in May, where a number of students were instructed not only on aviation but engineering and other career opportunities available through MDOT.

Commissioner Jeff noted that approximately a year earlier, the department conducted a pilot program with Team MDOT parents and their children. It has since been expanded to to a full day and includes the Lansing, East Lansing, and Grand Ledge school systems. The program has been well received and may be extended statewide.

Mr. Krashen recognized Southwest Airlines and Air Tran Airways for contributing two free airline tickets each, and Northwest Airlines for donating two \$100 vouchers, for grand prize drawings held during the workshop. He thanked the Commissioners for their continued support.

Director Abent asked the Chairman to recognize Commissioner Kraft, whose report on the General Aviation Committee meeting held May 5 appeared next on the agenda.

The Chairman called on Commissioner Kraft.

B. G.A. Committee Report

Commissioner Kraft briefed the Commissioners on the meeting held May 5, 2004. Excerpts of his report are paraphrased as follows:

- Aircraft Decals

Aircraft decals have been reinstituted for the 2004 licensing year. Feedback on the decals has been very positive, especially from airport managers who find it easier to identify aircraft at their airport. An added benefit is the security provided from knowing who belongs on airport property. Decals are useful to airport inspectors in identifying whether and to whom an aircraft is registered

- Michigan Flight Schools

Since September 11, 2001, the plight of Michigan's approximately 85 flight schools has been a topic of discussion for the G.A. Committee. Shortly after 9/11, the Michigan Legislature enacted a law requiring that students of flight schools undergo a criminal background check. Efforts initiated by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association were successful in getting this legislation rescinded. Commissioner Kraft reported that subsequent to 9/11, the G.A. Committee appointed a task force to review the effect of 9/11 on flight schools. It was determined that insurance, among other things, was a hit and miss situation, especially with smaller schools, and very expensive, and that flight schools were not an organized trade association.

For approximately two years, the G.A. Committee attempted to help the flight schools form a trade association. The effort has floundered. In conjunction with the Great Lakes International Aviation Conference (GLIAC), interested parties were afforded an opportunity to participate in a workshop put on by the aviation insurance industry. Only six people attended.

Recently, it was learned that a national association of flight schools had organized under the name of *Association of Professional Flight Training Schools* (APFTS), based in Dallas, Texas. Contacts were made with the executive director of this organization. The APFTS currently has a membership of 17 from eleven states and Canadian provinces. At the May 5 meeting, the committee discussed making one last attempt to organize the schools and bring the committee's involvement to an end. Plans are to finalize a letter to the flight schools informing them of the

APFIS, as well as the National Association of Flight Instructors, and suggesting that the flight schools initiate contact with these groups.

Commissioner Kraft asked that the Aeronautics Commission approve the action to send a letter to this effect to all Michigan flight schools.

For clarification purposes, Commissioner Jeff inquired whether the G.A. Committee had been actively attempting to organize a trade association as part of its official duties.

Commissioner Greenblatt expounded that these efforts were more along the lines of providing support and/or guidance to members of the flight school community to develop a program on their own.

Commissioner Kraft elaborated further that the mission of the Aeronautics Commission is to promote aviation, and that the G.A. Committee, recognizing a need, attempted to assist the flight schools to organize (elect their own officers, create their own charter, create their own by-laws, et cetera).

- Heliports

An aeronautical chart for helicopter pilots will soon be published by the Federal Aviation Administration. The G.A. Committee and staff of the bureau have been pursuing this for some time.

Commissioner Kraft noted that with plans to bring the 2006 Super Bowl to Detroit, a downtown heliport and landing pad is needed. A heliport located atop Cobo Hall has been closed since 1998. The City of Detroit has promised the NFL that a heliport would be ready for this event, yet efforts to bring this about have stalled. The G.A. Committee has recommended that priority be placed on this effort.

- General Aviation Security

The G.A. Committee is concerned about security at general aviation airports and is anxious to see what the Transportation Security Administration plans to do with regard to this issue. A 42-page guidance document has been prepared which sets out various scenarios and helps airports put in place procedures to better secure their airports.

- Airport Preservation

In Linden, Michigan, the Price Airport, soon to be renamed the Heritage Airpark, has undergone major renovation. A state-owned airport, it has been leased to the homeowners' association which abuts the airport property. Three new airports are under construction in the upper peninsula, as is another in the lower peninsula.

- Legislative Update

Commissioner Kraft indicated that an update on aviation legislation would be provided by Ron DeCook, Director of the Office of Governmental Affairs. He deferred to Mr. DeCook.

Mr. DeCook briefed the Commissioners on legislation now pending in the Michigan Legislature:

In the Senate, Senator Raymond Basham is sponsoring two bills, one pertaining to tall structure permits, the other a rewrite of the Aeronautics Code.

Senator Burton Leland will be sponsoring legislation to increase aircraft registration fees.

Both of these measures are in the request process with the Legislative Service Bureau and will be introduced in the upcoming months.

In the House, Representative Tom Meyer will be sponsoring a companion bill on aircraft registration fees. Two members of the House, yet to be identified, will be sponsoring the other bills mentioned.

Approximately 15 bills in various stages are pending within the transportation process.

Mr. DeCook noted that members of both the House and Senate are loathe to support any bill that can be perceived as a tax increase, particularly in light of the upcoming elections. As a result, little activity is anticipated until the lame duck session following the elections. In the meantime, staff will continue to line up support for proposed legislation.

Mr. DeCook entertained questions from the Commissioners. At the request of Commissioner Kraft, he agreed to provide copies of the proposed legislation.

The Chairman recognized Commissioner Jeff.

Commissioner Jeff reported having met with representatives from both the City of Detroit and the Super Bowl host committee and that neither had indicated a desire for heliport operations during the Super Bowl. She asked that Commissioner Kraft provide the source of this request so that follow-up can be conducted.

At this juncture, Director Abent recognized two individuals in attendance; William Blake, Regional Representative of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and Mike Trout, President of the Michigan Association of Aviation Executives.

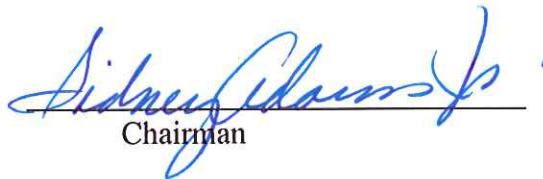
There being no further business to come before the Commission, Director Abent deferred to the Chairman for adjournment of the meeting.

At approximately 11:14 a.m., Chairman Adams adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting of the Aeronautics Commission will be held on July 28, 2004, commencing at 10:00 a.m., in the Aeronautics auditorium.



Director



Chairman



Dated